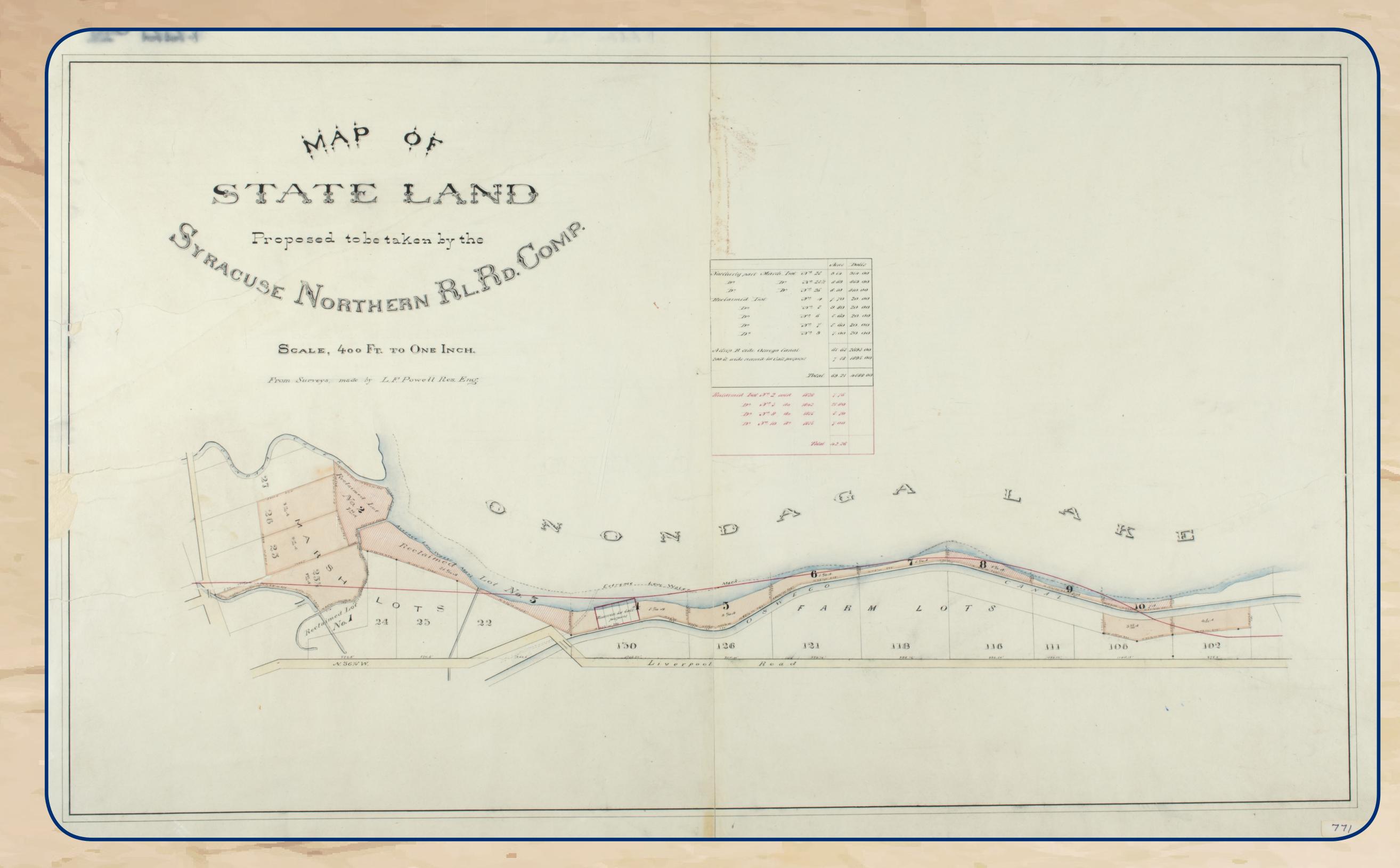
The Railroad

Along with the Erie Canal, the railroad systems played an important role in the development and growth of New York State's economy and population. Starting in the 1830s, railroads began creating vital connections among communities throughout the state and between New York and the rest of the country and Canada. From the farm-grown produce and raw materials transported to the cities to the manufactured goods and vacationers brought to the state's rural areas, trains helped meet the demands of passengers, communities, and industry alike.

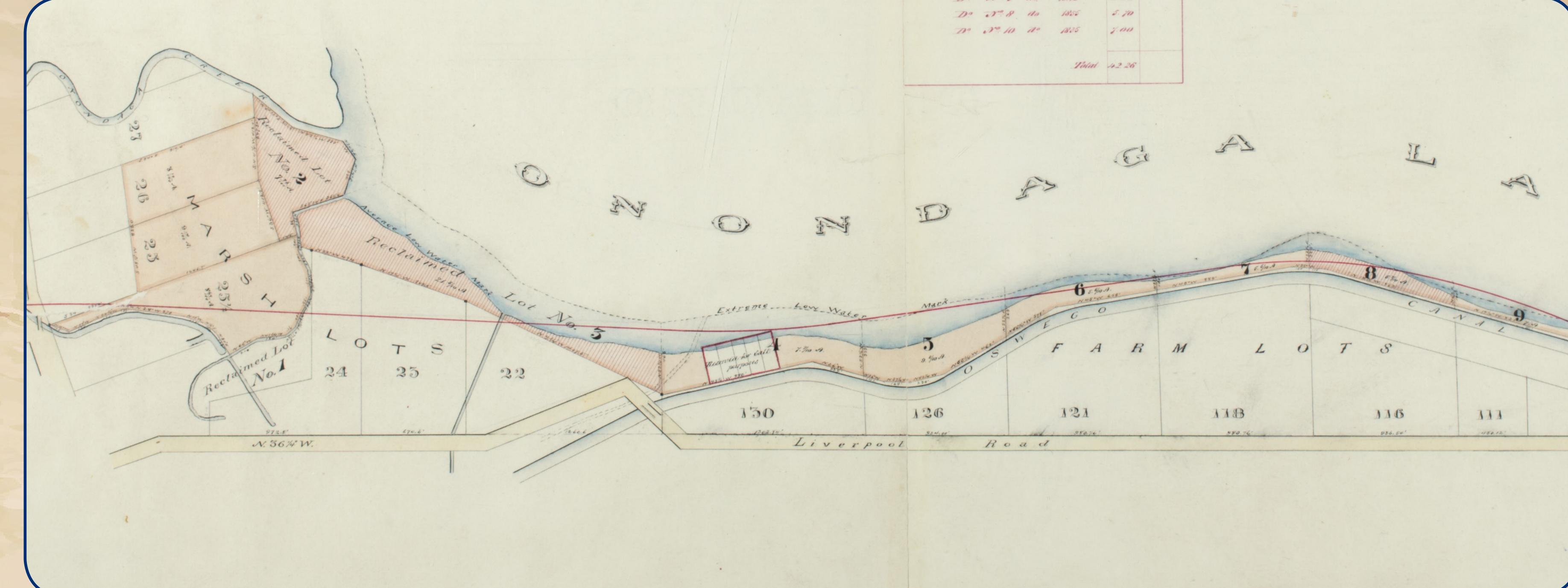
Upstate



The Boston, Hossac Tunnel and Western Railroad Company found the "narrow and rocky gorge" at Little Falls formidable when planning the path tracks would take through Herkimer County. The railway created a connection between Massachusetts and upstate New York. 1881

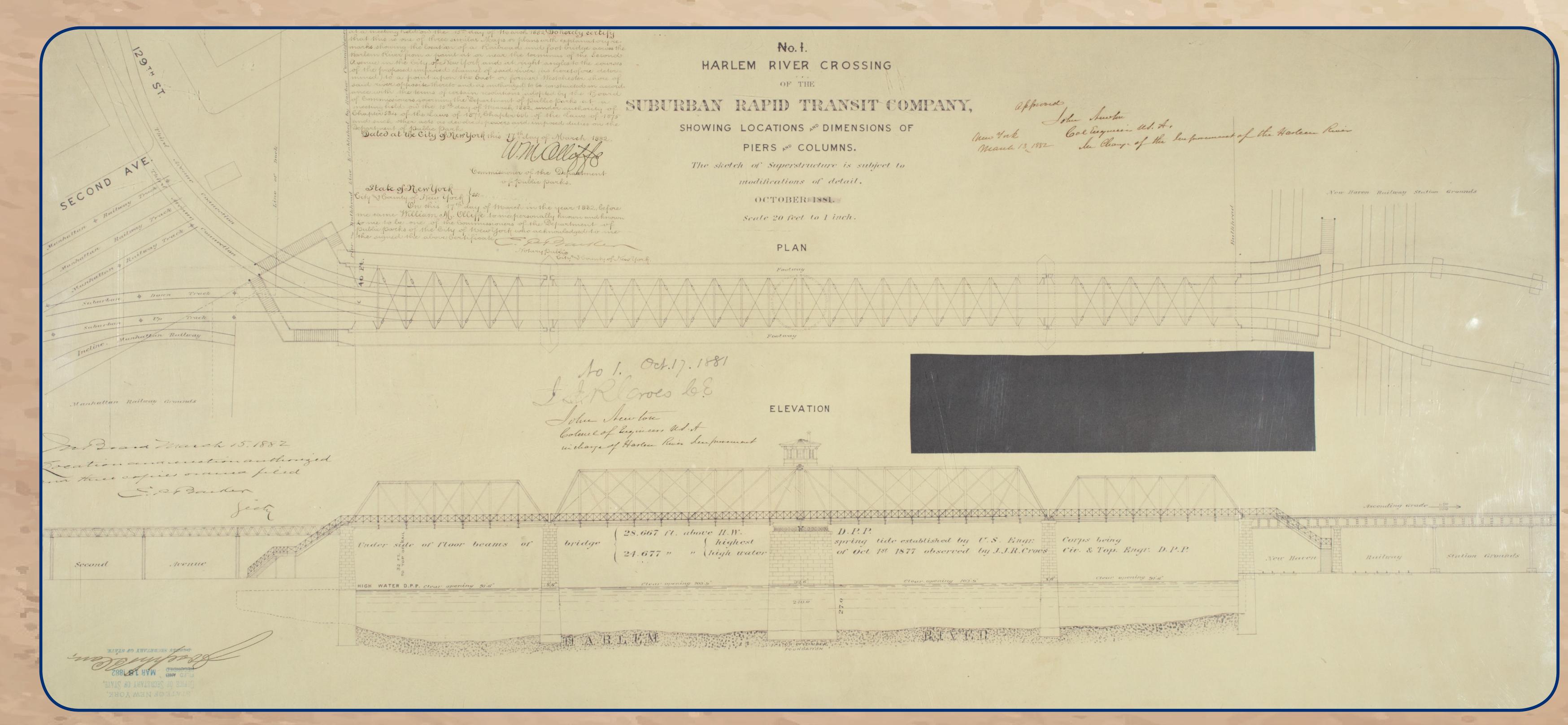


The Syracuse Northern Railroad opened in 1871. It was one of a number of rail lines that opened up and expanded opportunities for traveling and for trade in cities and villages such as Liverpool, Syracuse, Watertown, Oswego, Rome, and Ogdensburg.

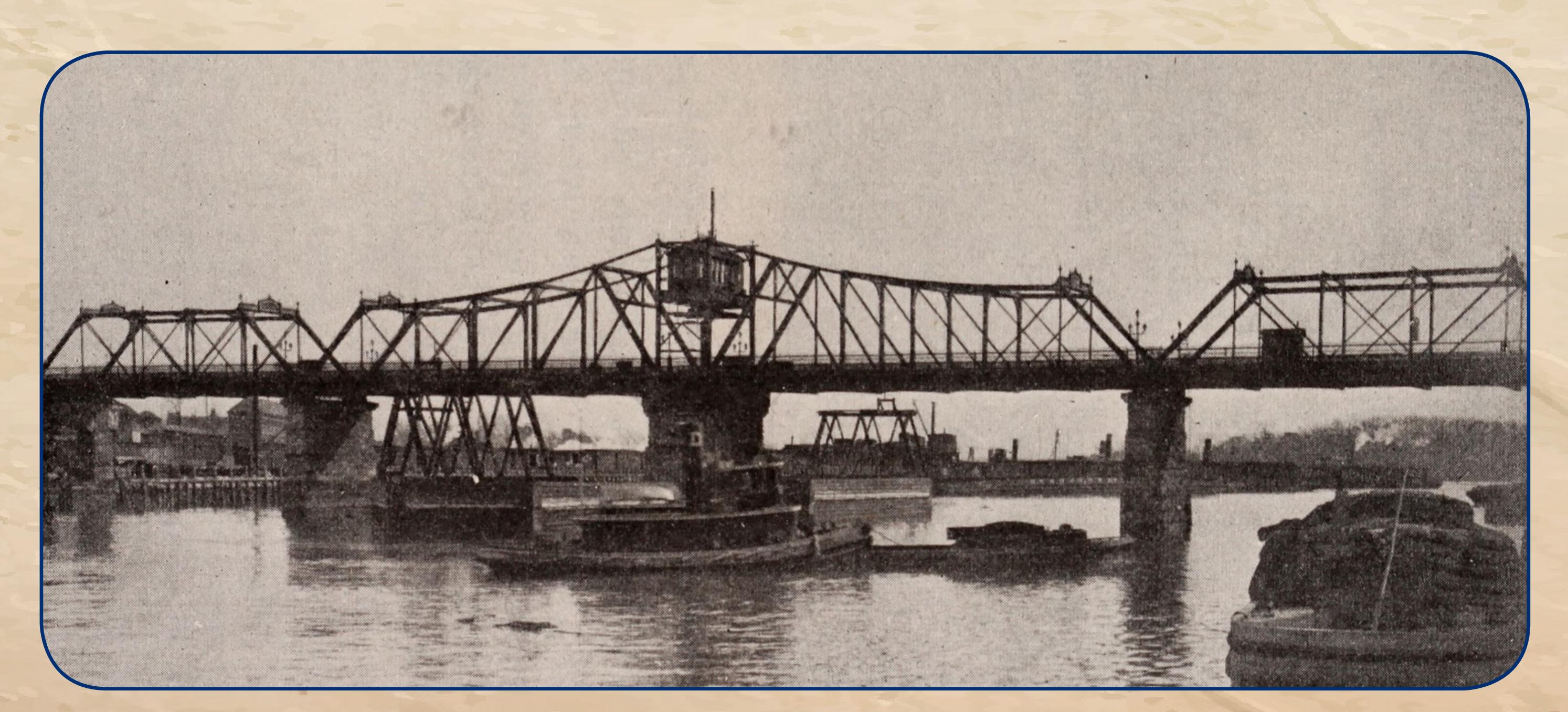


Although the Oswego Canal helped bolster trade between New York and Canada, less than a decade after the canal's completion in 1828, the railroad was already being seen as a much quicker way to transport people and goods such as salt than the canal packet boats, which were pulled by mules.

Downstate



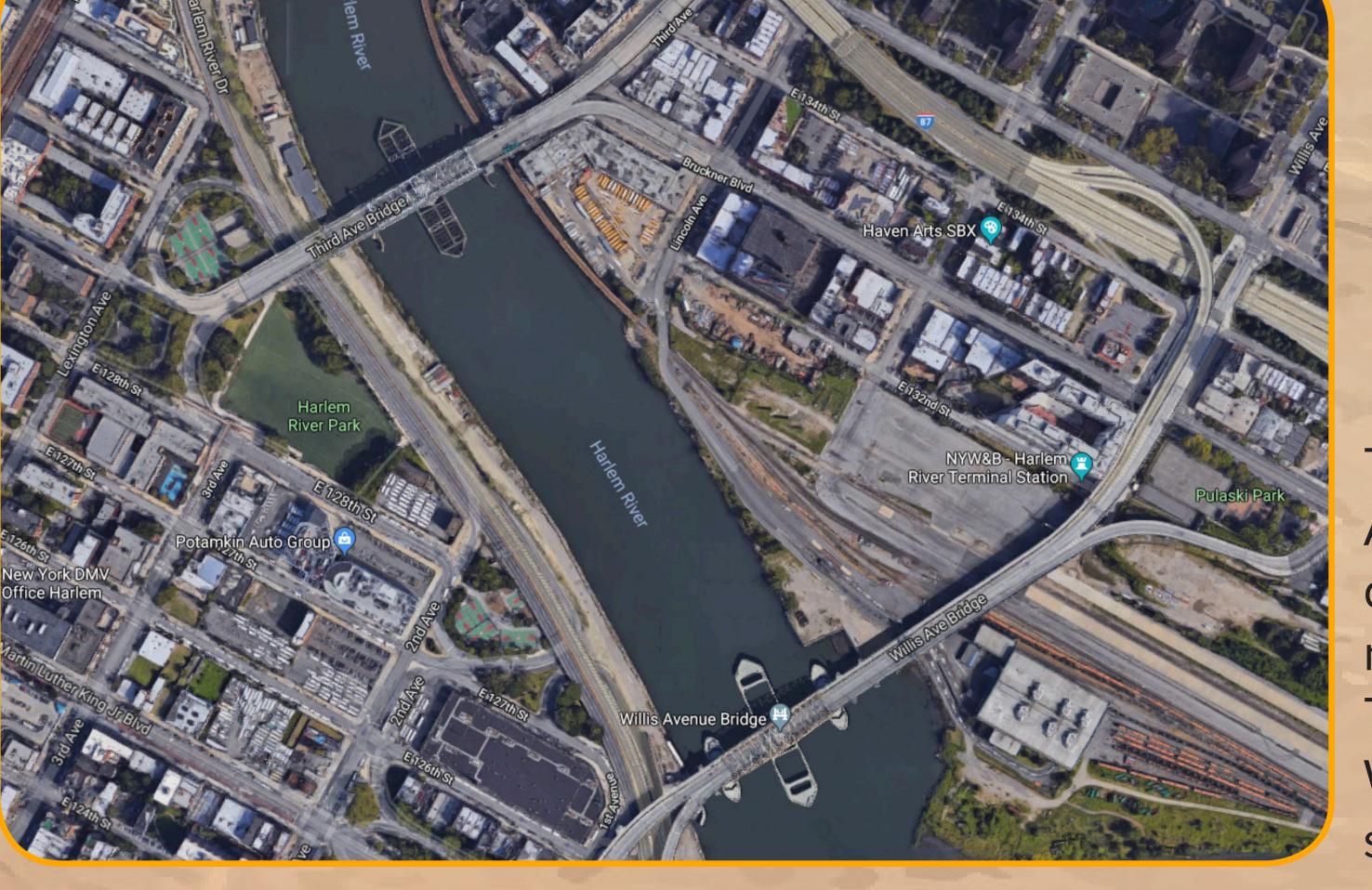
In 1881, plans commenced to provide inexpensive and fast transportation to the north end of New York City known as the Annexed District, now the West Bronx. In 1896, train service between the Bronx and Manhattan began using a bridge built over the Harlem River by the Suburban Rapid Transit Company.



The Second Avenue Bridge, 1890. This bridge was part of the IRT Second Avenue elevated line, also known as the Second Avenue El, until it was decommissioned in 1942.



Bridge Harlem River
Crossing in 1924 showing the elevated lines and connection to the Third Avenue lines.



The Second
Avenue Bridge was
decommissioned and
removed in 1942. The
Third Avenue Bridge and
Willis Avenue Bridge are
still in use today.